

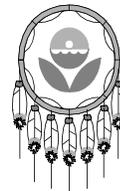
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EPA Homepage Website

<http://www.epa.gov/r10>

Then click on tribes

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



LETTER

Vol. XIII No. XI
November 1, 2004

Work Shops and Conferences

November 11-13, American Indian Science and engineering Society, AISES 26th Annual Conference, Egan Convention Center, Anchorage, AK. Information AISES www.aises.org

November 16-17, Protecting Tribal People from Contaminated Fish, Kennewick, WA. 509/783-0611

November 16-18, Pit Lake conference, Silver Legacy Hotel, Reno, NV. There is no registration fee. For more information <http://www.epa.gov/ttbnrmrl/pitlake.htm>. **November 17-18, 4th Annual Tribal Water Summit, Quinault Beach Resort WA.** Res: 888/461-2214

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To receive a copy call:

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Tribal Office. Judy 800/424-
4372 ext. 4011

November is Native American Heritage Month

In 1915, the annual Congress of the American Indian Association meeting in Lawrence, Kansas, formally approved a plan to adopt an American Indian day. It directed its President, the Rev. Sherman Coolidge, an Araphoe, to call upon the country to observe such a day. He issued a proclamation on September 28, 1915, which declared the second Saturday of each May as an American Indian Day and contained the first formal appeal for recognition of Indians as citizens.

In 1914 Red Fox James, a Blackfeet Indian, rode horseback

from state to state seeking approval for the celebration of a day in honor of Indians. He presented the endorsements of 24 state governments at the White House on December 14, 1915. However, no action was taken.

Since 1995, President Clinton has issued a proclamation, each year, designating the month of November as "National Indian Heritage Month". **This is the month to honor those whose land we are using.**

Indirect Cost Rates

1. When you apply for a grant:
If your organization plans to include indirect costs as part of the proposed grant project budget, you must submit a copy of your current, approved Indirect Cost Rate Agreement to EPA Region 10 Grants Administration Unit (GAU). If you do not have a negotiated agreement, you must provide documentary proof that you have submitted an indirect cost rate proposal to your cognizant agency. Without one of these two documents, the indirect costs in your proposal will be disallowed.

2. When the grant is awarded:
To be eligible for reimbursement of indirect costs, you must have a signed, negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement covering the time period for which you are claiming the indirect costs, and **copies of this approved rate agreement must be on file in EPA Region 10 GAU.** For example, if your latest indirect cost rate agreement is through 9/30/2003, you must **not** include indirect costs that were incurred beyond that date in your reimbursement requests to EPA. Doing so violates OMB Circular A-87, which is incorporated as a condition of your assistance agreement.

3. Financial Status Reports and Indirect Costs: You are responsible for reporting indirect costs claimed in each Financial Status Report (FSR) you submit. Box 11 of the form, SF 269A, requires you to show (a) the approved indirect cost rate, (b) the base amount you have applied this rate to, (c) the total amount, and (d) the total Federal share of funds that were expended on indirect costs.

These break-outs must be shown separately for EACH YEAR that is covered by the FSR. (Box 12 can be used to write in this information by year.)

4. At the close of the grant: Your submission of a complete final FSR begins the close-out process. To be complete, the final FSR must report all allowable incurred costs, and it must also show indirect costs (and cost rates) for EACH YEAR for which indirect costs were reimbursed. As noted above, Box 11 must be filled out entirely, and Box 12 can be used to note the information year-by-year.

SUGGESTION: Please make it a part of your usual practice to send GAU copies of all negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreements and/or evidence that you have submitted indirect cost rate proposals to your cognizant agency. Sending these documents routinely will enable GAU to keep our files current and administer your grants more efficiently.

EPA Indian Policy

In 1984, EPA became the first Federal agency to adopt a formal Indian Policy. Today I am proud to formally reaffirm this Policy, which embodies the core principle of working with Federally recognized Tribes on a government-to-government basis. The United States has a unique legal relationship with Tribal governments based on the Constitution, treaties, statutes, Executive Orders, and court decisions.

This relationship includes a recognition of the right of Tribes as sovereign governments to self-determination, and an acknowledgment of the Federal

government's trust responsibility to the Tribes.

The EPA Tribal Program has come a long way since the Indian Policy was first adopted. Important progress includes establishing the American Indian Environmental Office to manage EPA's National Indian Program, increasing the funding and staffing of EPA Tribal programs, working with Tribes and Congress to amend three of our core program statutes to allow Tribes to directly assume program authority, establishing the Tribal Operations Committee to advise EPA on Tribal matters, and reaching a substantial portion of the EPA workforce with our "Working Effectively with Tribal Governments" training.

I am proud of the success EPA has had in working with Tribes, and I realize that significant opportunities for progress remain. I pledge that the Agency will continue to build strong partnerships with Tribal governments to protect human health and the environment in Indian country. EPA Administrator Michael Leavitt

GAP Funding

The EPA Region 10 Tribal Unit has announced the availability of FY 2005 Indian General Assistance Program (GAP) funds. The solicitation notice was made available for distribution on October 15. Initial proposals are due **December 1, 2004**. Full applications are due March 31, 2005.

Federally-recognized Tribes and eligible tribal consortia can submit proposals for projects for up to four years and for a base amount of up to \$110,000 per

year. GAP funding is available to Tribes and tribal consortia funds for planning, developing, and establishing environmental protection programs in Indian Country, as well as developing and implementing solid and hazardous waste programs on tribal lands. If you have any questions about the GAP grant process or grant requirements, please contact your Tribal Coordinator. In Alaska, general questions can be directed to the Alaska Tribal Office at 800/781-5083. In Idaho, Oregon, or Washington, please contact the Region 10 Tribal Trust and Assistance Unit in Seattle at 800/424-4372.

EPA Funding Directory

The EPA's State and Local Capacity Building Branch has updated its funding opportunities directory. It is designed to help identify financial and technical assistance opportunities for efforts that reduce energy costs, improve air quality and public health, and enhance opportunities for economic development.

"Funding Opportunities: A Directory of Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, and Environmental Protection Assistance Programs" provides an extensive list of grants available from EPA, other federal agencies, state governments, and private foundations. For more: http://www.lgean.org/html/what_snew.cfm?id=811

New Brownfields Report

The National Association of Local Government Environmental Professionals (NALGEP) and the

Northeast-Midwest Institute have released a new report, *Unlocking Brownfields: Keys to Community Revitalization*. This report includes more than 50 profiles of successful brownfields projects and programs, five critical brownfields messages that document the evolution of brownfields success in America, and the "10 Keys to Brownfields Revitalization." For more:

<http://www.nalgep.org>

Brownfield Help

This year's EPA Brownfield competition for Assessment, Cleanup and Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) grants is now in full swing. Once again, the deadline for receiving grant proposals is November 12, 2004. For additional information and training help: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/bf>

Funding Opportunity

DOE's Tribal Energy Program is seeking applications for funding from Federally-recognized Tribes, Alaska Native Villages and Alaskan Native Corporations for: 1. the initial steps toward developing renewable energy and energy efficiency on Tribal Lands; and 2. either renewable energy feasibility studies or renewable energy development projects. For more information or copies of the announcements, see "Funding Opportunities" on the Tribal Energy Website at www.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy. "Renewable Energy Development on Tribal Lands" (Reference Solicitation Number DE-PS36-04GO94003) Submission deadline February 4, 2005

Under this announcement, DOE is soliciting applications from

Federally-recognized Tribes, Alaska Native villages and Alaskan Native Corporations (hereafter referred to as "Tribes") to either: 1. Conduct feasibility studies for the development of economically sustainable renewable energy installations; or 2. Sustainable renewable energy development projects (20% cost share).

"First Steps Toward Developing Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency on Tribal Lands" (Reference Solicitation Number DE-PS36-04GO94004) Submission deadline January 20, 2005.

Under this announcement, DOE is soliciting applications from Federally-recognized Tribes, Alaska Native villages and Alaskan Native Corporations for strategic planning, energy options analysis or resource planning, energy organization development, and human capacity building related to sustainable energy efficiency implementation or renewable energy development. Funds for these announcements are currently not available. Awards under these solicitations are subject to the amount of discretionary funding, if any, appropriated by Congress. DOE will only consider applications from Tribes on whose Tribal Lands the project will be located. Applications from a consortium of Tribes will be accepted but must be submitted by a single Tribe representing the consortium.

For information DOE's Tribal Energy Program, see www.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy see new "Guide to Tribal Energy Development" at: www.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/guide

Solid Waste Grants

The Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service Description: Funds may be used to: Evaluate current landfill conditions to determine threats to water resources in rural areas; provide technical assistance and/or training to enhance operator skills in the maintenance and operation of active landfills in rural areas; provide technical assistance and/or training to help associations reduce the solid waste stream; and provide technical assistance and/or training for operators of landfills in rural areas which are closed or will be closed in the near future with the development/ implementation of closure plans, future land use plans, safety and maintenance planning, and closure scheduling within permit requirements.

Applications due: Dec 31, 2004 Category of Funding: Community Development Environment Expected Number of Awards: 30 Estimated Total Program Funding: \$3,500,000.00. Award Ceiling: \$800,000.00 CFDA Number: 10.762 -- Solid Waste Management Grants No cost sharing or matching requirement: Eligible Applicants include: Native American tribal governments.

For more information, contact: Saulnier, Stephen, Loan Specialist, Phone 202/690-2526, or Ssauline@rus.usda.gov

EnviroMapper 3.0

EPA Office of Water has released a revised version (3.0) of its EnviroMapper for Water

interactive geographic information system application. Users can select, view, and map data on water in the United States via online access to such information as the uses states assign to local waterbodies, as well as data on impaired waters, water quality monitoring, beach closures, and the location of dischargers. For more: www.epa.gov/waters/enviromapper

Watersheds Protected

EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt has announced that 14 watersheds - representing 17 states - are eligible for \$15 million from EPA's Targeted Watersheds Grant Program. The selected areas represent more than 20,000 square miles of rivers, lakes and streams across the United States.

"Through this **program, EPA lends a hand to local groups working to protect and restore our nation's watersheds,**" said Leavitt from the banks of Gray's Lake, part of the Upper Mississippi watershed. "With these watersheds projects, we take a critical step forward in providing clean and safe water for every American."

Watershed qualifying for the program stretch from Cape Fear on the Atlantic Coast all the way to Dungeness River in Washington State and Alaska.

EPA Reports on CSO, SSO

The EPA has released a report to Congress on the extent of human health and environmental impacts caused by municipal combine sewer overflows (CSOs) and sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs), including the location of discharges, the volume of pollutants discharged, the

constituents discharged, the resources spent by municipalities to address the impacts, and the technologies used.

This is the second of two reports that Congress requested on the impact of CSO and SSOs. The first report was sent to Congress in December 2001 as report to Congress - Implementation and Enforcement of the Combined Sewer Overflow Control Policy.

The following article provides a synopsis of each section and is based on the Report's Executive Summary. A full copy of the report is available on:

<http://www.epa.gov/npdes/csos-soreport2004>

Children Health Hazards

EPA is soliciting applications for the "Building Health Professional Capacity to Address Children's Environmental Health" initiative. This funding opportunity is designed to identify competitive projects that increase the number of health professionals who are able to address the broad spectrum of children's environmental health issues in their practices, in the institutions in which they work, in their communities and in academic settings. For more:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/ochp/ochpweb.nsf/content/grants.htm>
[wetlands/facts/contents.html](http://yosemite.epa.gov/ochp/ochpweb.nsf/content/wetlands/facts/contents.html)

Fish Farm Discharge

The EPA recently announced it will issue regulations to reduce and control discharges of "conventional pollutants, primarily total suspended solids," as well as nutrients and other "non-conventional" pollutants, at about 245 "concentrated aquatic animal production" facilities or

commercial fish farms.

The rule applies to direct wastewater discharges from facilities annually produce at least 100,000 lb of fish and discharge at least 30 days per year, and to facilities that produce at least 100,000 lb of fish per year in net pens or submerged cages.

The rule, which was signed June 30 and is scheduled for official publication soon, applies to both new and existing facilities, the announcement says. Already permitted facilities will be subject to the new rules upon renewal of their permits.

The rule will also require facilities to minimize discharges of solids, including uneaten feed, settled solids, and animal bodies. www.epa.gov/guide/aquaculture

Mercury

Although the threat from airborne mercury may seem intractable and beyond practical solutions on the personal level, there are steps you can take in everyday life to reduce your risk of mercury poisoning.

Mercury thermometer: Old-style mercury thermometer may seem harmless, but a single oral thermometer holds enough mercury to poison a small lake. Mercury fumes from a broken thermometer can be inhaled; burning one with trash can create highly toxic fumes; and skin exposure to mercury can result in poisoning. Tribes and municipalities across the nation have responded to this threat enacting "thermometer swapping" programs where owners trade mercury thermometer for safe digital versions.

Mercury switches: Many temperature-sensitive switches, such as those used in home air conditioning systems, contain mercury; such switches pose risks similar to those from thermometers. Swapping programs can replace mercury switches with digital ones, and homeowners can easily replace old or malfunctioning switches with minimal effort or expertise. Contact your tribal environmental department for guidance on disposing of mercury switches.

Drug preservatives; some childhood vaccines, such as those for measles, mumps and rubella, contain the preservative thimerosal, which is 49.6% mercury. Though links between thimerosal in vaccines and medical problems such as autism and muscular dystrophy remain inconclusive, many experts agree that no quantity of mercury in the body is safe, particularly in the case of small children whose nervous system are still developing. Insist that your physician avoid using vaccines containing mercury.

Batteries: Though their production has largely been phased out in the U.S., some batteries (e.g., watch and hearing-aid batteries) contain mercury that, through improper disposal, can pollute the environment. Newer batteries made without mercury are adequate for most uses and should always be substituted for mercury batteries where possible. Avoid burning trash contain mercury batteries, as mercury fumes are highly toxic.

Skin ointments; Mercury is still used in some skin-lightening creams and antiseptic ointments. Check the labels when purchasing

such items and steer clear of skin applications that contain mercury.

Medical waste: For those in the healthcare profession, EPA region 5 has created an informative webpage on reducing mercury in the medical waste stream: www.epa.gov/reg5oair/glakes/fact2.htm

Dental amalgams: Debate is ongoing in the dental community regarding the safety of traditional, metallic dental amalgams used for filling cavities. Some say that as they age and abrade, mercury-amalgam fillings release trace levels of mercury into the system. More clear are risks associated with breathing vapors and ingesting fine particles of mercury when amalgams are replaced or re-shaped using high-speed drills and grinders. The standard line among many dentists is that amalgams are safe, but as the risk of mercury toxicity become more apparent, an increasing number of dentists are replacing amalgam with newer, less-toxic fill materials - acknowledging, that the safest amount of mercury in the body is no mercury at all.

Emission Standards

Los Angeles - California air regulators unanimously approved the world's most stringent rules to reduce auto emissions that contribute to global warming - a move that could affect car and truck buyers from coast to coast.

Under the regulations, the auto industry must cut exhaust from cars and light trucks by 25% and from larger trucks and sport utility vehicles by 18%. The industry will have until 2009 to begin introducing cleaner technology, and will have until 2016 to meet standards.

"This landmark decision sets a

course for California that is likely to be copied throughout the U. S. and other countries," said Alan Lloyd Chairman of the California Air Resources Board. He added that the board's decision continues its tradition of setting standards that drive improvements in pollution-cutting technologies. For more: http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/national/192409_emissions25.html

ALASKA

The Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska would like to welcome you to their IGAP website <http://www.cchita-igap.org!> They have developed this website to act as an Information Clearinghouse to aide IGAP Environmental Staff throughout Alaska. The site will contain updated Environmental Information that will help guide you in your IGAP Program. Tribes will have quick access to Environmental information, news, grant opportunities, forms, conferences, trainings and meetings. Tribes can also post current job announcements, success stories, and calendar items.

OREGON

Kevin Craig has replaced Mark as the environmental person at the **Coquille Indian Tribe**.

WASHINGTON

Suquamish Tribe: For the second time in over decades, tribal and non-tribal shellfish harvesters are able to harvest clams and oysters from the Dyes Inlet Beaches. Last October, the Washington State Department of Health issued an initial order

upgrading portions of the Northern Dyes Inlet between Silverdale and Bremerton from "prohibited" to "conditionally-approved". Contamination from untreated waste, stormwater run-off and failing septic systems had closed these beach areas (in the Usual and Accustomed Area of the Suquamish Tribe) since the 1960's. The Suquamish Tribe has been engaged in multiple processes with many partnerships being forged, and finally have seen a great success story in a positive environmental outcome in their commitment towards Dyes Inlet.

Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe receives USDA Conservation Award: BRENDA HANRAHAN Peninsula Daily News : Jamestown S'Klallam tribal members were recognized on

October 5, 2004 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for their wetlands restoration efforts. Agriculture Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment Mark E. Rey will give tribal leaders an Outstanding Conservation Cooperator Award for significant wetland restoration accomplishments in the Sequim Bay watershed. Rey and others will also tour the wetlands. The restoration efforts are taking place on the southern end of Sequim Bay at the mouth of Jimmy come lately Creek. A wide array of wildlife including an endangered run of summer chum salmon which will travel the restored Jimmy Comelately Creek, plus waterfowl, raptors and amphibians will benefit from the wetland restoration, Rey said. In

June, a cooperative agreement was signed between the tribe and Natural Resources Conservation Service to provide just under \$1 million of Wetlands Reserve Program funding.

Samish Indian Nation: At a ceremony, October 19, EPA honored the Samish Indian Nation for their commitment to "Green Power". Green power is electricity generated by renewable energy sources including solar, wind, water, geothermal, biomass and biogas. Partners in Green Power Partnership pledge to switch to green power for a portion of their electricity needs in return for EPA technical assistance and public recognition.

<http://www.epa.gov/greenpower>.